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TWO BEACON BIOGRAPHIES.

LOUIS AGASSIZ. By Alice Bache Gould. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co.

Many men rise to scientific eminence in their own country, and some are so fortunate as to be world-known and highly esteemed. Few there are who attain this goal as true citizens of more than one country, and they belong to the world. Agassiz is one of these few, and the author of this little volume has given a charming account of his life, his personality, and just enough of his work and teaching to inspire the student of nature with the desire to know more of him. In this the *bien être* of the biography has been achieved. By temperament, by education, and by environment Agassiz was a naturalist, and, happily for him and the world, his work was done at a time when nature was just beginning to be studied in a truly scientific manner. The position that the science of biology, in its widest sense, holds at the present time is due to men like Agassiz, Cuvier, Von Humboldt, Darwin, Spencer, and others. They were pioneers, and each has bequeathed laws which are regarded as almost immutable in biology. Agassiz may have differed in his views and teaching as to the laws of evolution, the origin of species, and the like, but his deductions based on investigation have given such an impetus to true scientific study in this country that he may be considered the leader, if not originator, of investigation in America. Although an eminent Swiss, a world-known American, his lasting memorial will be this stimulus to accuracy and investigation—a more lasting fame and a greater gift to science than any monumental work.

The author is to be congratulated in presenting such a stimulating, pleasant, and acceptable essay to the public.

WM. B. HALL.

FATHER HECKER. By Henry D. Sedgwick, Jr. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co.

The editor of this series has continued his plan of selecting subjects of very wide appeal; for, as the author remarks in the preface, “no one who feels an interest in the religious and spiritual condition of the country can fail to take hope

and courage from even a little knowledge of Father Hecker's heart and soul." This is eminently true, but the biography is not at all up to the subject. We get as many facts as the one hundred and fifty pages of print and the copious extracts from Father Hecker's journals allow, but we have not at all an adequate picture of the man. We are told in so many words that he was a member of the Redemptionist Order expelled for disobedience to the letter of the canon in a matter where his conscience was aroused, and that he was allowed after a time to establish the Order of the Missionary Priests of St. Paul the Apostle, better known as the Paulist Fathers. There are some pages devoted, also, to the consideration of "Americanism," as the influence of the Order in France was called, but this part of the book is as unsatisfactory as the first part. From the pages devoted to the man it is hard to understand how he could have had such an influence as he did have, and from those concerning Americanism we might infer that what was one of the most significant religious movements in France of recent years was only an ebullition in the eternal boiling due to some men's desire for things new, and other men's determination to cling to the old. However, the interest of the subject and the very handy form of the volume will guarantee a number of readers out of proportion to the merit of the biography. G. C. E.

ELEMENTS OF AGRICULTURE. By James Bolton McBryde, C. E. Richmond, Va.: B. F. Johnson Publishing Company. 1901.

In consequence of a demand for primary instruction in agriculture in the public schools of our several States, this volume appears as an elementary text-book on the subject. Simply its presence is an evidence of this demand, and it is hoped that the book may satisfy the needs of pupils both in city and country. For although special and skilled knowledge is a necessity to the farmer to enable him to battle for his daily bread, it is equally a source of pleasure and satisfaction to a well-rounded intelligence in any one. The book is arranged in seven parts, as follows: (1) Climate; (2) Plants; (3) Soils; (4) Manures; (5) Farm Crops; (6) Animal Pro-